

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON JOHN W H F DICKIE OBE
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Permanent Address: Dolphin House, Windsor Road, CHOBHAM, Surrey.
Born: Calgary, Canada on 18 Nov 24, has British and NZ Citizenship.
Recently widowed. 2 sons and a daughter.

EDUCATION

Preparatory School - Fairleigh, Weston-Super-Mare. Junior Oxford(1937)
Secondary - HMS CONWAY, (off Rock Ferry) Apr 39 - (off Bangor) Aug 42.
Northern Universities School Certificate(1940)
Passed RN Direct Entry Exams - Nov 41, Jul 42 (but not in top 6).
Outward Bound Sea School, Aberdovey - Jun/Jul 42 (Watch Capt)
Conway Extra Certificate, Senior Cadet Captain.
Further - HMS VERNON, Long(12 months) Torpedo Anti-Submarine Course, incl. 3 months academic study at RNC Greenwich 1953/4.
Joint Services Staff College(JSSC), Latimer - 6 months JSS Course(1963/4) followed by 1 month Command Course at VERNON.

NAVAL/DEFENCE SERVICE

On leaving CONWAY, joined the cruiser HMS SUSSEX, based on Scapa Flow, as a Midshipman, then RNC Greenwich/RNB Chatham(Nov 42) for training, before joining the sloop HMS WILD GOOSE on commissioning (Mar 43) for service in the Western Approaches as part of the 2nd Escort Group under Capt F J Walker, CB DSO***, sinking 21 U-Boats in the following 2 years. Joined HMS OPOSSUM, another sloop, on commissioning (May 1945) as Sub Lieutenant RNR, based on Hong Kong as part of British Pacific Fleet. Appointed Lieutenant RN(Jan 47) as ship's Navigating Officer. On return to UK(Nov 47), following month's EOW leave served in RN Barracks, Devonport for divisional duties and as 1st Lieutenant of the destroyer HMS HOTSPUR for post refit trials and preparations for handover to Dominican Navy. Joined HMS HORNET(Apr 49) in command of a Mine Sweeping ML involved in MCM R & D trials; then in command of MTBs and as SO(O) for a Coastal Force Mobile Unit operating in Holland, until volunteering and being accepted for transfer to the RNZN(Jul 51).

On arrival in New Zealand(Aug 51) joined frigate HMNZS TAUPO and sailed immediately for 13 months in Korean war, as ship's TAS Officer and then 1st Lieutenant. On return to NZ, sailed for UK by NZSC for Long TAS Course and 2 years exchange service with RN as Lt Cdr(Nov 53), including instructional duties in HMS VERNON - working up Wyvern Aircraft for Torpedo Strike, Mine Warfare instructional staff, command of Experimental Minelayer HMS NIGHTINGALE, then to HMS BRAMBLE as Squadron MCM & TAS Officer of 4th Minesweeping Squadron. Joined refitted cruiser HMNZS ROYALIST at Devonport(Mar 56) as TAS & Operations Room Officer, for work-up with Med Fleet and participation in Suez operation. Having become fully operational, political decision taken to withdraw ROYALIST to NZ. On return to NZ, assumed duties of Port TASO & SO(O) and TAS Training in Auckland Base. Assumed command of frigate HMNZS KANIERE(May 60), operations included a 13 weeks training

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cruise in Pacific islands, anti-submarine exercises and port visits in

*TORPEDO ANTI-SUBMARINE OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OFFICER.

NZ waters. Visited Scott Base, Antarctica (Jan 61). Became Director Undersurface Warfare (Feb 61 - Aug 63), as well as Director of Operations (Aug 62 - Jun 63) in Navy HQ, Wellington. Also was guest of CNO of the Argentine Navy aboard the cruiser LA ARGENTINA for return to BA from Wellington, via Tahiti and Chile, followed by approved visits to ASW establishments and return after 2 months by air 1st class at Argentine Government expense.

Promoted Commander Dec 63, during attendance at the Joint Service Staff College, Latimer (Aug 63 - Mar 64), then joined the new Defence HQ as Staff Officer (Integration) for tri-service unification projects. In Aug 66 became Naval Attache and Deputy Head of NZ Defence Staff, Washington DC and Naval Adviser to New Zealand High Commissioner, Ottawa and was accredited to DIA. Was involved in intelligence reporting, particularly relevant to Australasian participation in the Vietnam War. Also responsible for negotiating Data Exchange Agreements and Technical Co-operative Programmes with DOD and USN on matters of mutual interest, particularly in naval and Antarctic research projects. Before leaving USA, was successful in negotiating the loan to RNZN of a USN Research ship.

Despite having previously been promised command of a Leander frigate, on return from USA, was posted to lead a Defence Planning Team (Aug 70 - Aug 72). In Sep 70 was seconded to SEATO as observer of border operations in Thailand and Allied military operations in Vietnam. Next appointment was Chief Inspector, Establishments & Inspection in Defence HQ. Was awarded OBE in Jan 73. Instead of returning to sea, was posted to the Top Management Committee of the Naval Staff as Director of Organisation and Staff Duties and Provost Marshal of the RNZN (Apr 73 - Jun 74). In Aug 73 was appointed Hon ADC to the Governor General of New Zealand. Although about to be promoted to Captain as Director of Training, resigned because of lack of further sea command, returning to UK by sea at own expense.

Following examination and interview, joined the UK MOD as a Civil Servant (EO - SEO), in the following administrative appointments:

Support of MRCA (Tornado Aircraft) Production Office & Branch Security Officer (Jan 75 - Mar 77)

Finance and Cash Accounts at Military Vehicle and Engineering Establishments, Chertsey, Christchurch and Kirkcudbright (Apr 77 - Apr 81)

Staff of Chief Fleet Support Co-ord. (Navy), in London, dealing with financial aspects of Fleet Procurement programmes. (Apr 81 - Jan 82)

Staff of Defence Export Services, responsible for arranging the disposal of surplus HM ships, with remaining operational life, by sale to other navies, including HMS HERMES to India, 2 DLGs and Fleet Tanker to Chile, 2 Leander Frigates to each of RNZ and Pakistan navies, 4 Tribal Frigates and Hydrographic Survey ship to Indonesia, 2 Hong Kong Patrol Craft to Irish Republic and 1 Oberon Submarine to Canada. The successful negotiation of these sales contributed #175M to Defence funds and #38M of work for British industry. (Feb 82 - Jan 90)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Following retirement, became Managing Director of aircraft spares company established 3 years earlier by youngest son. Assumed full responsibility for all financial aspects of the business, with USA/UK bank accounts and management accounts and stock control on an integrated computer programme.

Unfortunately, due to these business commitments also involving overseas travel, over the past 9 years on the CONWAY Club Committee, including 3 years as Vice President (1993/6), have had limited ability to fully participate in CONWAY activities. Even so, attendance at and participation in Committee meetings has been good. Also AGMs/annual reunions and social and other functions, including those arranged by Solent Branch have been attended whenever possible and until my wife's recent terminal illness.

Having finally retired this year from this demanding business, should now find time to pursue a more leisurely and normal lifestyle and if elected as President, should enable my attendance as required at appropriate country-wide and possibly overseas Branch functions.

Since Jul 94 have been a Subscriber Appointed Trustee of the Conway Trust and have attended most meetings and dealt effectively with related correspondence and applications.

From 1991 - 1998 was President of the HMS WILD GOOSE Association with close affiliation to a former German supply U-boat's crew - we sank the boat, but saved the crew. We still attend each other's reunions, though with dwindling numbers.

Other memberships include: Association of Royal Navy Officers, Cormorant Club, Coastal Forces Veterans Association, Portobello Association, Captain Walker's Old Boys Association, Algerines Association, British Legion. I now expect to become more involved in some of these.